



Rancho Christmas celebration



Step back in time and celebrate an old-fashioned holiday. Using natural materials, each of the 28 rooms and two large courtyards of this historic landmark will be decorated for the holiday season of yesteryear with over a hundred wreaths, garland, and centerpieces. The event includes children's activities, wagon rides, music and Christmas caroling.

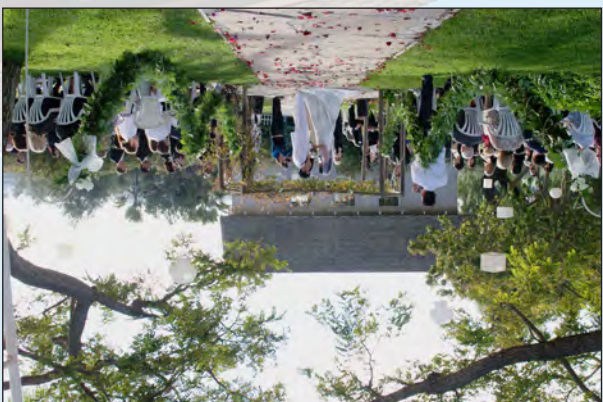
## SPECIAL EVENTS

### RANCHO CHRISTMAS

Celebrate a 3,000 year old tradition at Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). This historic ritual is a time for the departed to return home to visit loved ones, feast on their favorite food and drinks, and listen to their favorite music. The event includes children's activities, music, performances by ballet folklórico, and craft and food vendors.

### DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

AVAILABLE AMENITIES	
Tables & Chairs	100 Folding Chairs, 12 Round Tables, 5 Rectangular Tables
Dance Floor	Victorian Garden (Concrete)
On-Site Staff	Yes
Electricity	Yes
Water	Yes
Kitchen	No



Wedding on the West Veranda

**Ceremonies**  
Ceremonies may be held in the Guajome Chapel, which holds approximately 60 people. Or, the West Veranda outside offers a beautiful setting for up to 250+ people. Each may be reserved for a ceremony only.

**Reception Services & Amenities**  
The Victorian Garden can accommodate up to 250+ guests, and is available for receptions from 8 am to sunset.

## WEDDINGS

## RULES & REGULATIONS

- MOTORIZED VEHICLES:** Motorized vehicles are not permitted.
- PETS:** Dogs must be licensed, restrained on a leash no longer than six feet, and attended at all times.
- VEGETATION & NATURAL FEATURES:** All plants, animals, natural features, and archaeological resources are fully protected and may not be damaged, injured, or removed.
- TREES:** Do not tie or hang ropes, wire, or tents to trees. Do not drive nails, screws, or staples into trees.
- FIREARMS & WEAPONS:** Firearms, fireworks, and weapons are not permitted in County Parks.
- YOUTH:** All persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a legally responsible adult with medical authorization for each child while in the park.
- ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** Alcoholic beverages are permitted providing the alcohol content does not exceed 20%.
- CAMPING:** Camping is not permitted in Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park.
- SMOKING & FIRES:** Smoking and open flames are prohibited in the Rancho Guajome County Park.

**NOTE:** Attendance in the park is contingent upon guests complying with all park rules. Failure to comply will result in a suspension of use privileges and loss of any prepaid fees.



## TRAILS

From sunrise to sunset visitors can hike or bike along the park's multi-use trails. Rancho Guajome Adobe trails extend from the park entrance at North Santa Fe Avenue to the City of Vista Sports Park. Along the one-mile trail you may see wildlife such as ring-necked pheasants, roadrunners, or even a red-tailed hawk. The open space wetland habitat also supports a wide variety of flora such as willows, buckwheat and sage.

## RANCHO GUAJOME ADOBE COUNTY PARK



2210 North Santa Fe Avenue  
Vista, CA 92083  
(760) 724-4082



Visit us online at [www.sd parks.org](http://www.sd parks.org)



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# Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park

Welcome to the Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park and the legacy of California's Rancho Days. The centerpiece of what was originally a 2219-acre Mexican land grant, the Rancho Guajome Adobe stands today as an authentic representation of two cultures – Hispanic and American. The Adobe offers an illustration of a colorful era in San Diego's past.



*Cave Johnson Coutts*

Cave Johnson Coutts, a handsome young Army lieutenant from Tennessee arrived on California's west coast in 1849 with a company of U.S. Army Dragoons sent out to reinforce U.S. troops in California. While waiting in Old Town to complete his assignment, he met Juan Bandini, one of San Diego's most prominent citizens and began courting Bandini's daughter, Ysidora. His marriage to Ysidora in 1851 merged the California traditions of early San Diego Mexican settlers with the entrepreneurial spirits of an American immigrant.



*Ysidora Bandini de Coutts*

Ysidora received the 2219-acres Rancho Guajome land grant as a wedding present from her brother-in-law, Abel Stearns.

Cave's early investments in cattle and livestock brought him huge profits and in 1852, he began construction of an elegant home on Rancho Guajome.

He and Ysidora turned the Rancho into a social and cultural center for North San Diego County. They held grand fiesta and the couple became legendary for their gracious hospitality.

Ever the entrepreneur, Coutts recognized the natural agricultural and horticultural advantages of the region. As the bottom dropped out of the local cattle market, he planted oranges and other fruit crops and became a leader in the commercial development of the region's agriculture market.

The Rancho's centerpiece was its Adobe hacienda. At nearly 7,000 square feet and containing 28 rooms, the ranch house took more than three years to construct. It became the elaborate headquarters for Coutts' huge ranching operations.



*The inter-courtyard as it appeared in the early 1900's.*

Built around an inner courtyard, it held Coutts' office, store, schoolroom, as well as the family's living quarters. A second carriage courtyard, a separate chapel, servant's quarters, barns, sheds, stables, corrals, and extensive orchards and vineyards completed the rancho setting.



*The inter-courtyard during a spring time bloom.*

In 1970, the Rancho Guajome Adobe was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Careful preservation and restoration, including replacement of the tile roof, stabilizing and plastering adobe walls, and restoration of doors and windows was completed by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation in June, 1996.

Original building materials were saved and restored. The paints used were identified from research that required removal of 150 years of paint one layer at a time. In cases where the original materials were too deteriorated to retain, replicas were created. The entire restoration was in strict conformance of the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation.

## TOURS

### Self Guided Tours

Wednesday – Sunday; 9:30 am – 4 pm

### Guided Tours

Wednesday – Friday; 12 pm

Saturday – Sunday; 12 pm and 2 pm

### Group and School Tours

Group and school tours are available by reservation. Tours last about an hour and school groups learn to make adobe bricks. Bus tours are also welcome. **For reservations call (760) 724-4082.**



*Early view of the Guajome hacienda parlor.*



*Ysidora's carriage.*



*Rancho Guajome Adobe chapel.*



*Cave Johnson Coutts' office.*